

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 190802Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3561
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 4117

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, MY
SUBJ: M-16 SALE AND SINGAPORE

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 5557

1. IN ORDER TO CLARIFY GOS POSITION RE M-16 AND AMMO SALE TO MALAYSIA, BELIEVE IT WORTHWHILE TO REVIEW THE BIDDING. GOM ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR RIFLES WAS DIRECTED TO CHARTERED INDUSTRIES, SINGAPORE IN JUNE 1975. GOS TURNED DOWN REQUEST ON BASIS INSUFFICIENT STOCK AND/OR PRODUCTION. AT PRESENT TIME CHARTERED INDUSTRIES, SINGAPORE HAS AN ORDER FROM GOM FOR MODEST AMOUNT OF 5.56 AMMO (STATED AS POLICE REQUEST) AND IS DEBATING WHETHER OR NOT TO FILL SAME. DIR MIL INDUSTRIES (ONG) HAS TOLD DATT THAT REAL PROBLEM WITH SALES OF WEAPONS TO MALAYSIA LIES IN GOS FEAR THAT SMALL ARMS WILL ULTIMATELY BE USED AGAINST CIVILIANS (READ CHINESE) AND GOS HESITATES TO SUPPLY AGAINST THIS POSSIBILITY.

2. AM SOMEWHAT DISTURBED BY REPORT THAT COLT REP (ROY) CHOSE TO MAKE DISPARAGING REMARKS RE QUALITY OF SINGAPORE 5.56 AMMO. COMMENT IS WITHOUT SUBSTANCE. SINGAPORE PLANT SUPPLIES THAILAND, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, PHILIPPINES, TAIWAN ON REGULAR BASIS, AND HAS MADE PREVIOUS SHIPMENTS (SMALL AMOUNTS) TO MALAYSIA. THE SINGAPORE PLANT CURRENTLY HAS AN ORDER FOR 2 MILLION ROUNDS OF 5.56 AMMO FROM INTERARMCO, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA. HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE SINGAPORE AMMO MEETS ALL SPECIFICATIONS.

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FURTHER BELIEVE THAT ROY REMARKS PART OF GENERAL COLT SCHEME

TO DISPARAGE SINGAPORE OPERATION WHICH COLT EVIDENTLY SEES
AS POTENTIALLY STRONG COMPETITOR IN SE ASIA.

3. EMBASSY PUTS SMALL STORE IN GOS REASONING RE MALAYSIANS
SHOOTING CIVILIANS. BELIEVE RATHER THAT THIS IS SPECIOUS
ARGUMENT TO SUPPORT GENERAL PIQUE OF PM LEE AT PERCEIVED
FAILURE BY PM RAZAK TO COOPERATE FOLLOWING COMMONWEALTH CON-
FERENCE. FURTHER BELIEVE WE SHOULD DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO DAMPEN
ANY COLT ANTI-SINGAPORE CAMPAIGN AND IF NOT ENCOURAGE, AT
LEAST NOT DISCOURAGE, ANY GOS/GOM MUTUAL SUPPORT IN AREA
OF SMALL ARMS PRODUCTION. IN THIS RESPECT, UNLESS EMBASSY KUALA
LUMPUR PERCEIVES OBJECTION WE WILL ENCOURAGE GOS TO FILL GOM
ORDER FOR 5.56 AMMO. HOLDRIDGE

SECRET

NNN

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